



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (15-3456)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, Commissioner Johanna Arias-Bhatia, Vice Chairperson Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Percy Duran III, Commissioner Keren M. Goldberg, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D. and Commissioner Theresa Zhen

Excused: Commissioner Susan Burton and Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Staff present: Bolaji Famuyiwa, Roy Sinclair and Jenny Kimbell. (15-3457)

Call to Order. (15-3356)

Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence. Commissioner Zhen joined at 10:20 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

- 1. Approval of the July 8, 2015 Minutes. (15-3357)**

On motion of Vice Chairperson Barbara Bigby, seconded by Commissioner Donald S. Andrews and unanimously carried, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

- 2. Department of Auditor-Controller (AC). (15-3358)**

Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed copies and reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report during the month of June 2015:

There were a total of 16 Hotline Requests for Assistance Calls:

- **14 Youth callers**
- **2 Adult callers**

Outreach 6 Visits

- **Orange County Children's Foundation (Carson site)**
- **South Bay Bright Future (All 3 sites)**
- **Dimondale (Lancaster site)**
- **Marco Homes, Inc.**
- **Turmont Home for Girls**
- **Murrell's Farm and Boys Home (Both sites)**

3. Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). (15-3359)

Patricia Bolanos-Gonzalez, Children Services Administrator II, Out of Home Care Management Division, DCFS, reported that during the month of June 2015 there were a total of 685 Absent Without Leave (AWOL) and the child abuse hotline received a total of 22 referrals in the following categories:

June 2015 referrals

- **1 Care Taker Absence & Capacity**
- **2 Physical Abuse**
- **5 General Neglect**
- **8 Sexual Abuse**

During the same reporting period 31 referrals were closed in the following categories:

- **10 Physical abuse**
- **9 Sexual abuse**
- **11 General neglect**
- **1 Emotional abuse**

The referrals were closed for the following reasons:

- 5 Evaluated out
- 8 Inconclusive
- 18 Unfounded

Ms. Bolanos-Gonzalez also reported the hold has been released from Childhelp Group Home.

Commissioner Bigby reminded Ms. Bolanos that the Commission continues to request DCFS to modify their report to include the names of the facilities that are involved in the reported incidents and the request is yet to be met.

Additionally, Commissioner Grills inquired about the Commission's request for DCFS to conduct a trend analysis of AWOL's in the group homes by Supervisorial Districts and how many of the AWOLs have been victims of sex trafficking. She further requested information on whether or not DCFS is collaborating with ICAN.

Ms. Bolanos Gonzalez stated that she will follow up with DCFS administration to contact the department that is in charge of the wrap around program to attend the next meeting.

4. Internal Services Department (ISD).
Status report on the unsatisfactory findings at Camp Mendenhall on June 19, 2015. (15-3360)

There was no representative present to report.

5. Department of Mental Health (DMH). (15-3403)

Ms. Kathryn Stroupe reported that DMH is currently working with providers to make sure that they have the allocations to support all mental health service in various service areas during this fiscal year which began on July 1, 2015.

Commissioner Grills expressed that it has been a long standing concern for the Commission that there is a lack of clarity regarding the need and availability of mental health services in the jails/group homes. She inquired if DMH can provide an analysis that shows the need and demand for mental health services and the Departments' view on the demand.

Ms. Stroupe stated that DMH Needs and Services Plans are different

from that of DCFS. DMH NSP's have an open case with goals and objectives that makes progress more visible. Additionally, Court services and the office of the Medical Director works collaboratively to have DCFS team at the Courts to ensure administration of psychotropic drugs are cleared through the courts.

6. Probation Department (PD). (15-3361)

Ms. Pamela Pease, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Group Home Monitoring and Investigations Unit, Placement Services Bureau, PD, provided the monthly status report of group home AWOLs for the month of June 2015 as follows:

There were 130 AWOLs:

- **50 Remain AWOL**
- **64 Returned to group homes**
- **1 Camp**
- **13 Placed in Juvenile Hall**
- **1 HOP**
- **1 County jail**

Investigations

- **2 Child Abuse**
- **1 Substantiated, 1 Unfounded**

Ms. Pease also reported that Community Sports and Arts Foundation is still on hold and they are currently not receiving any monies or children. CCL is now involved with the investigation and is conducting a solvency review.

7. Sheriff's Department (SD).

- **Report on how the inmate welfare funds are utilized to benefit the inmates**
- **Report on the number of inmates on the EBI Program**
- **Presentation on the transition unit**
- **Report on the guidelines for putting inmates on disciplinary diet**
- **Update report on the maintenance of Inglewood courthouse (15-3362)**

Responding to the Commission's inquiry into how the Inmate Welfare Funds (IWF) are expended, Sergeant Jack Soto, Community Transition Unit (CTU), reported that the SD has a birth certificate program for inmates that were born in Los Angeles County and the IWF has allotted

\$10,000 for the program to pay for that service. Advertisement is throughout the jail and those who qualify can receive a birth certificate.

After discussion, the Commission reiterated its request which is for the SD to provide a full report of how the IWF are generated, how the funds are expended and an audit report from the previous fiscal year.

Sergeant Jack Soto, Community Transition Unit (CTU), reported that the goal of the CTU is to reduce the recidivism rate by linking inmates to services in the community upon their release from jail in order to promote a successful transition into the community. The SD is contracted with Healthright 360, an agency that deals with AB109, N3 population. The program provides alternative to custody programs and serves as a community re-entry resource center. Other services include pharmacy services, the opportunity for inmates to more easily obtain valid California identification cards and assistance in applying for reinstatement of government benefits.

Mr. Soto also answered questions posed by the Commission and provided the Commission with detailed contact information.

Sergeant Roel Garcia reported that the SD has been working with the Superior Courts and ISD to make the necessary upgrades and corrections to Inglewood Court and all unsatisfactory findings identified during Commissioners Grills and Zhen's inspection last month and should be completed before the next meeting.

Commissioner Grills requested that the SD add Compton Court to the list of courts in need of repairs, noting that during her visit she discovered safety and maintenance issues.

The following SD items were continued to the next Business meeting agenda:

- Report on how the inmate welfare funds are utilized to benefit the inmates**
- Report on the number of inmates on the EBI Program**
- Report on the guidelines for putting inmates on disciplinary diet**

8. Chairperson's Report on various items. (15-3363)

Chairperson Montaña shared the following Newspaper Articles with the Commission:

Daily Breeze:

- Sheriff Probing Inmate Abuse Claim (July 12, 2015)
- Jail Incident Spurs Changes (July 13, 2015)
- For Sheriff Quick Reaction is Only One Step (July 14, 2015)
- Grant Could Cut Jail Population (July 14, 2015)
- Foster Kids Bill Should Not Give Doctors a Pass (July 15, 2015)
- Residents Get Taken for a Ride by Supes' Cars (July 15, 2015)

Los Angeles Times:

- Sheriff Relieves 10 Jail Workers of Duty (July 12, 2015)

Attachments: [SUPORRTING DOCUMENT](#)

9. Treasurer's Report. (15-3364)

Commissioner Andrews reported that the balance of the Commissioner's Charitable Fund is \$408.90.

10. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports. (15-3365)

Staff reported that a draft response to the Civil Grand Jury's recommendations has been prepared based on the discussions and motions from the July 8, 2015 SBC meeting. Copies fo the response were distributed to the Commissioners for review.

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Percy Duran III, seconded by Commissioner JoHanna Arias-Bhatia, the motion was duly carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Vice Chairperson Bigby and Commissioners Zhen, Grills and Goldberg.

Noes: Chairperson Montañño and Commissioner Andrews.

Excused: Commissioner Hill.

11. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from June 9, 2015 to June 14, 2015. (15-3366)

During the reporting period, the following group homes/facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

Chairperson Montañño and Commissioner Andrews visited:

- Men's Central Jail (Bauchet Street, Los Angeles, CA) on July 9, 2015.

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- Dorothy Kirby Center (McDonnell Avenue, Los Angeles, CA) on July 14, 2015.

Commissioner Arias-Bhatia visited:

- Century Sheriff Station (Alameda Street, Lynwood, CA) on July 14, 2015.

Commissioner Duran visited:

- Optimist Girls Group Home (Silver Oak Terrace, Los Angeles, CA) on July 10, 2015.

Commissioner Goldberg visited:

- Universal Sub Sheriff Station (Universal Blvd., Universal City, CA) on July 3, 2015.

Vice Chairperson Bigby visited:

- Altadena Sheriff Station (Altadena Drive, Altadena, CA) on July 14, 2015.

During the reporting period, the following group home/facility was reported as being in unsatisfactory condition:

Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited:

- Lifecircles Group Home (Louvre Street, Pacoima, CA) on July 13, 2015 and reported the following:
 - Exterior/Interior is not well maintained
 - The van is in poor and unsafe condition
 - The kitchen is in poor condition and unclean
 - The food supply is inadequate
 - Educational materials are unsatisfactory

Commissioners Grills, Zhen and Burton visited:

- Compton Courthouse (Compton Blvd., Compton, CA) on July 13, 2015 and reported the following:
 - All cells and attorney visitation room needs painting
 - The staff first aid kit is used for inmates
 - The water faucet do not work
 - The monitoring system does not work and unable to pick up distress signal
 - Inadequate staffing

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

12. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (15-3368)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

13. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (15-3369)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

14. Adjournment for the meeting of July 15, 2015. (15-3370)

There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of July 15, 2015 at 12:56 p.m.